

GUILTY PLEA OF M'KAY IN DURST CASE

Is Sent to Penitentiary on
Charge of Manslaughter
by Judge Ramsay.

CONSCIENCE HURT HIM

Gave Strychnine Because
She Wanted Dope—No
Reason to Kill Her.

Archie McKay, aged 31 years, who Sunday night startled the police officials with a voluntary confession that he had killed Mrs. Alvina Durst by giving her strychnine, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in circuit court this morning and was given an indeterminate sentence of one year to life in the state penitentiary by Judge F. D. Ramsay.

The conviction of McKay establishes a new and remarkable record in this county for speedy disposition of a criminal case that furnished a number of interesting angles. It was early Thursday morning that Mrs. Durst's dead body was found in a vacant lot at the corner of Fourteenth street and Fourth avenue. There was no clue as to what caused the fatality but it was found that McKay had been with her the night before.

Had Been Drinking.

He was arrested but he claimed that he did not know the cause of her death. He first stated that he left her after she had passed away but later changed this and said that she was merely ill and was getting better when he left her. The coroner's jury decided after hearing medical testimony that she died from natural causes, probably heart failure, and McKay was released.

McKay took to drinking hard after the crime and Sunday night while intoxicated, he stumbled into the station and confessed that he had given the woman strychnine and that she had died from its effect. He was allowed to sober up and yesterday morning when in full possession of his faculties repeated his story to State's Attorney F. E. Thompson.

Conscience Bothered Him.

He claimed that it was simply a case of conscience. He admitted that he was unable to either eat or sleep while the truth was being withheld from the officers and decided to voluntarily confess in order to secure peace of mind.

No autopsy was held at the inquest, as it was not thought necessary. Even yet there is some disposition to doubt some of the story told by McKay. If he had given her a full grain of strychnine, as he claimed, doctors say the body would have been doubled in convulsions and that there was nothing in the attitude in which the body was found to indicate that any poison had been administered.

McKay was indicted by the grand jury yesterday afternoon on a charge of manslaughter, it being charged that he performed the act in a careless and negligent manner, in other words that he administered strychnine, without any intention of killing the woman. In order to have him held on a murder charge, premeditation and malice would have to be shown.

McKay's Confession.
Complete text of McKay's confession to State's Attorney F. E. Thompson yesterday follows:

"My name is Archie McKay. I live on Rock Island. I had known Mrs. Alvina Durst for two years. She

lived at Schmidt's hotel. I was with Mrs. Durst Wednesday evening, Sept. 20. I met her at 10 o'clock in front of a saloon at the corner of Seventeenth street and Third avenue. We went west on Third avenue to Fourteenth street and then south to Fourth avenue. We went through some double gates to a vacant lot. She asked me if I had a shot of dope. I said 'Yes.' I gave her a half of grain. She said, 'I am feeling better now.' I gave her another half grain. She said she felt good. Then after a little time she asked me to get a glass of water. I got it and gave it to her. Then she wanted more. I went into the house again and got a soup bowl full of water, and put a little salt in it, thinking she would throw it up.

Stole the Poison.
"She was getting stiff. She got cramps. She said she was going to die. I said 'No.' She lay on her back in the grass and I raised her up. She smiled at me and died. I went into my house at 2:30 and went to sleep. My mother awakened me at 5:30 and said there was a crowd out in the yard. I asked her what was the matter. She said, 'They have found a dead woman.' Then Smith and Berry (Rock Island patrolmen) came to the house. I asked them what they arrested me for, and they said, 'Come along to the station and find out.' Then my mind bothered me so that I decided to make a voluntary confession. I walked into the station and told them.

"I had strychnine in the house but seldom carried it on me. I don't know why I kept the dope around. It was very powerful. I stole the strychnine, but I don't like to tell where. I did not steal it from a drug store or a doctor's case. There were about 150 pills in the box. The bottle was labeled 'poison.' I went into the back yard to an outhouse and scratched the label off the bottle. I emptied the bottle and threw it away. I threw the pills away after it. I had no intention to kill her. If I had known it would have killed her I would not have given it to her. Everyone around the tri-cities knew that she was a dope fiend. She used heroin, cocaine and other drugs.

No Cause for Crime.

"She had taken treatment at Watertown and had been treated by several doctors here. She would use anything she could get. There was no argument, no words, no cause for me to kill her. I gave her the strychnine the same as I would give a cigarette to a man in the street who asked me for one. She said she was going to die. The coroner's jury said that they found marks of injections on her arm, so I don't know how much she had before she met me."

The Theatre

IN THE MOVIES.

TONIGHT.

Spencer Square—Tyronne Power in "Where Are My Children?"
Majestic—Robert Mantell in "The Green Eyed Monster," two-reel comedy also.

WEDNESDAY.

Spencer Square—Tyronne Power in "Where Are My Children?" Burton Holmes' travel pictures.
Majestic—Dorothy Bernard in "Sporting Blood," Billie Burke in 15th chapter of "Gloria's Romance."
Black Hawk—"Love's Law," "Shooting Up the Movies."

FAMILY (Moline).

Vaudeville. Two shows daily, at 3 and 8:15 p. m. Three Sundays, at 2:45, 7:30 and 9 p. m. Change of bill Sunday and Thursday.

COLUMBIA.

Vaudeville—Two shows daily at 2:45 and 8:15 p. m. Three Saturday and Sunday at 2:45, 7:30 and 9 p. m. Change of bill Sunday and Thursday.

AT SPENCER SQUARE.

Tyronne Power is to be seen at the Spencer Square today and Wednesday in "Where Are My Children?" Of the picture Dr. Phil Willy Seidel of New York said: "Hopelessly bored by the average pictures which are hypocritical and lack fancy and wit, I greeted the work in question as an extraordinary piece of acting seldom met with.

Complete text of McKay's confession to State's Attorney F. E. Thompson yesterday follows:

"My name is Archie McKay. I live on Rock Island. I had known Mrs. Alvina Durst for two years. She

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|-------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Ajax | Plain..... 8.25 | 10.96 | 12.60 | 18.00 | 18.32 | 19.36 | 25.52 | 25.84 | 26.76 | 30.52 |
| | Non-Skid..... 9.84 | 13.20 | 14.84 | 20.64 | 21.00 | 22.04 | 28.64 | 28.96 | 29.88 | 34.04 |
| Kelly Springfield | Plain..... 11.40 | 14.93 | 17.10 | 21.50 | 22.24 | 23.63 | 28.20 | 29.00 | 29.78 | 35.52 |
| | Non-Skid..... 13.58 | 17.70 | 20.40 | 26.25 | 27.19 | 28.65 | 32.78 | 35.60 | 36.30 | 44.16 |
| Goodrich | Plain..... 8.67 | 11.16 | 12.87 | 18.34 | 18.69 | 19.74 | 25.99 | 26.34 | 27.30 | 31.11 |
| | Non-Skid..... 9.10 | 11.73 | 13.52 | 19.25 | 19.60 | 20.74 | 27.80 | 27.65 | 28.66 | 32.69 |
| Capital | Plain..... 7.43 | 9.57 | 11.03 | 15.72 | 16.02 | 16.92 | 22.28 | 22.58 | 23.40 | 26.67 |
| | Non-Skid..... 7.80 | 10.05 | 11.59 | 16.50 | 16.80 | 17.78 | 23.40 | 23.70 | 24.57 | 28.02 |
| Federal | Plain..... 8.32 | 10.72 | 12.36 | 17.60 | 17.92 | 18.96 | 24.96 | 25.28 | 26.20 | 29.88 |
| | Non-Skid..... 9.16 | 11.80 | 13.60 | 19.36 | 19.72 | 20.84 | 27.44 | 27.80 | 28.84 | 32.88 |
| Firestone | Plain..... 9.06 | 11.47 | 13.26 | 18.82 | 19.17 | 20.13 | 27.30 | 27.61 | 28.66 | 34.22 |
| | Non-Skid..... 10.15 | 12.87 | 14.84 | 21.10 | 21.50 | 22.54 | 30.59 | 30.94 | 32.08 | 38.33 |
| United States | Plain..... 8.67 | 11.16 | 12.87 | 18.33 | 18.69 | 19.73 | 25.99 | 26.34 | 27.30 | 30.67 |
| | Chain Tread..... 10.29 | 13.48 | 15.40 | 22.58 | 23.05 | 24.55 | 31.20 | 31.64 | 32.90 | 37.45 |
| Goodyear | Plain..... 9.02 | 11.29 | 13.44 | 19.17 | 19.69 | 20.83 | 27.22 | 27.61 | 28.79 | 32.20 |
| | Non-Skid..... 10.55 | 13.65 | 15.70 | 22.44 | 22.93 | 24.42 | 31.81 | 32.34 | 33.69 | 40.85 |
| Fisk | Plain..... 8.25 | 10.63 | 12.25 | 17.46 | 17.80 | 18.80 | 24.75 | 25.10 | 26.00 | 29.63 |
| | Non-Skid..... 8.67 | 11.17 | 12.84 | 18.34 | 18.67 | 19.75 | 26.00 | 26.30 | 27.30 | 31.10 |
| Diamond | Plain..... 8.25 | 10.63 | 12.25 | 17.46 | 17.80 | 18.80 | 24.75 | 25.10 | 26.00 | 29.63 |
| | Non-Skid..... 8.67 | 11.17 | 12.88 | 18.34 | 18.67 | 19.75 | 26.00 | 26.30 | 27.30 | 31.10 |
| Empire | Plain..... 9.70 | 12.50 | 13.75 | | 19.90 | | | | | |
| | Non-Skid..... 9.80 | 11.46 | 13.17 | 18.80 | 20.17 | 20.45 | 26.67 | 27.05 | 28.21 | 31.55 |
| Nassau | Plain..... 9.92 | 12.88 | 14.80 | 21.15 | 21.55 | 23.00 | 30.00 | 30.45 | 31.71 | 35.45 |
| | Non-Skid..... 7.75 | 10.10 | 11.60 | 16.55 | 16.90 | 18.00 | 23.50 | 23.85 | 24.85 | 27.80 |
| American | Plain..... 8.50 | 10.95 | 12.50 | 17.85 | 18.15 | 19.25 | 25.30 | 25.65 | 26.60 | 30.25 |
| | Non-Skid..... 11.40 | 14.93 | 17.10 | 21.50 | 22.24 | 23.63 | 28.20 | 29.00 | 29.78 | 35.52 |
| Kelly Springfield | Plain..... 13.58 | 17.70 | 20.40 | 26.35 | 27.19 | 28.65 | 32.78 | 35.60 | 36.30 | 44.16 |
| | Non-Skid..... 8.52 | 10.95 | 12.60 | 18.00 | 18.32 | 19.36 | 25.52 | 25.84 | 26.76 | 30.52 |
| Ajax | Plain..... 9.84 | 13.20 | 14.84 | 20.64 | 21.00 | 22.04 | 28.64 | 28.96 | 29.88 | 34.04 |
| | Non-Skid..... 21.31 | 27.80 | 28.57 | 29.97 | 32.90 | 33.69 | 34.48 | 41.62 | 41.62 | |
| Silvertown Cord | Plain..... 21.31 | 27.80 | 28.57 | 29.97 | 32.90 | 33.69 | 34.48 | 41.62 | 41.62 | |
| | Non-Skid..... 21.31 | 27.80 | 28.57 | 29.97 | 32.90 | 33.69 | 34.48 | 41.62 | 41.62 | |

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Revealing the Premeditated Destruction of the In-
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(No One Under 18 Admitted)

2 p. m. to 11 p. m. Continuous—Seats 25c and 15c
Also Comedy, "TEMPERANCE TOWN"

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Owen Moore and Marguerite Courtot in
"ROLLING STONES"

Bad Fisher's Comedy, "MUTT AND JEFF"

The board of censors seem to be too little aware of the fact that this work stands far above the average rubbish lacking in taste and sentiment which it makes use of to fill its pockets.

AT THE MAJESTIC.

Robert B. Mantell, supreme in the portrayal of emotional roles, is ably supported by the beautiful Genevieve Hamper, appears at the Majestic tonight in "The Green Eyed Monster." Mr. Mantell is cast as Raymond de Mornay. His younger brother, Louis (Stuart Holmes), marries Claire (Miss Hamper), the only woman Raymond has ever loved. Though heartbroken, Raymond conceals his hurt and shortly after the wedding, unable to endure the sight of Claire's happiness with another, he sets forth on a tour of the world. After many years of wandering, he is called home by the death of his father. His love for his brother's wife has not died, and his smoldering jealousy is fanned to fiercer flame by the fact that Louis, though married and a father, is carrying on a clandestine love affair with the governess of his son. Blazing resentment at this cruel irony of fate drives the man temporarily insane and he kills his brother and conceals the body in a wonderful old Indian chest acquired on his travels.

LOCAL PASTORS AT DISTRICT SESSION

Rock Island district of the Illinois conference of Lutheran churches meets this week at Prophetstown, Morrison and New Bedford, opening this evening. Rev. I. O. Nothstein of Grace church, this city and Rev. A. F. Bergstrom of the First church, Moline speak at Prophetstown tonight. Rev. Edward Ekstrom of Salem church, Moline, and Rev. Karl Nilson of the First church, Rock Island, go to Morrison speaking there tonight and Rev. Walter Tillberg of Trinity church, Moline will be the speaker at New Bedford. The business session will be held Wednesday in Prophetstown and

all the clergymen will gather there for the day Wednesday, scattering again for the various churches and their evening meetings.

BOTTLE UP COMBLES AND TAKE OTHER TOWNS ALONG FRONTAGE OF 8,000 YARDS

(Continued From Page One.)

cording to British officers the Germans on the fighting front have no longer any trenches except those which are dug under fire.

Combles, a town of some 2,000 population before the war, had been rendered of small strategic importance to the allies by their long continued encircling movement. It has been of notable value to the Germans, however, because, as long as they clung to it the Franco-British freedom of action in pushing their offensive movements toward Bapaume and Peronne, on either side of it were hampered. Turned into a strongly fortified position by German defensive ingenuity, it has persistently held fast like a rock in the course of a turbulent stream that has had to be blasted loose before the channel was fully opened up.

Has Been Costly Task.

This process has only been accomplished by long continued, severe and costly effort on the part of the allies. Driving in from the south the French successfully swept Hardecourt, Marrepas, Leforest and finally reached Freigourt, a mile east of Combles. More slowly but none the less surely

the British have pressed their advance on the north of the German salient. Their struggles to reach and hold Ginchy and Guillemont were expensive in time and men but finally the ground north of Combles and some distance to the east was occupied, putting the town in a pocket.

Cut Off German Retreats.

Yesterday came the combined effort of the French and British. Only two roads remained over which the German could withdraw their men and guns. Attacking from the north, General Haig's forces pushed to and occupied Morval, cutting the northerly road running to Le Transloy. Striking from the south the French pushed their line to Freigourt, severing communication with Combles over the southerly road—that stretching towards Sully. The gap between Morval and Freigourt, a mile and a half in width and reaching back toward Combles, was swept from either direction by the combined fire of French and British guns.

French Report.

Paris, Sept. 26, (12:15 p. m.)—Con-

tinuing their offensive north of the Somme the French last night captured all the village of Freigourt and penetrated the Combles cemetery.

A French reconnoitering party reached the southern border of Combles, says today's official announcement. Eight hundred unwounded pris-

oners were taken yesterday on the Somme front.

Violent counter attacks were made by the Germans last night on the Verdun front between Thiaumont work and Feury. These assaults were checked by French artillery and rifle fire.

BEST THEATRE

Thirty-Eighth St. and Fourteenth Ave.

FIRST EPISODE WEDNESDAY

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MAJESTIC

Nothing But Big Features.

Tonight William Fox presents Robert Mantell with Genevieve Hamper

"THE GREEN EYED MONSTER"

A Photoplay Hinging on Tortures of Jealousy
Children Under 16 Not Admitted. Prices Not Advanced—10 and 15c.